



June 8, 2012

The Honorable
Address Block

VIA EMAIL

Dear _____,

We wanted to share with you the positive news that the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) has assessed the joint Barrington/TRAC Coalition petition seeking a rulemaking and determined that it merits one. As you will recall, our petition seeks (1) retrofitting the defective (inadequately designed) freight tank cars (DOT-111's) used to transport Packing Groups I and II hazardous materials; and, (2) requiring electronic consist distribution by freight railroads after a derailment or other emergency.

We note that our position is consistent with that of the National Transportation Safety Board which recently recommended the adoption of such rules for DOT 111 tank cars that transport denatured fuel ethanol and crude oil following its investigation of a train derailment near Rockford. In that accident, multiple tank cars transporting ethanol resulted in an innocent bystander being burned to death when the tank cars ruptured and caught fire at a highway crossing.

At this point, we do not have any time frame as to when the agency will begin the rulemaking process through notice in the Federal Register. It is our understanding that the Barrington/TRAC petition will likely be combined with a rulemaking that had already been instigated by a request of the Association of American Railroads.

We are quite pleased that the perspective of local governments charged with emergency response efforts when a hazmat spill occurs will be considered in this rulemaking. It is our hope that this will mark a watershed moment in federal consideration of the perspective of local communities when it comes to the safe transport of hazardous materials through the nation.

We will take the liberty of notifying you once PHMSA publishes its proposed rulemaking in the Federal Register in the hope that you will support our joint effort too.

Sincerely,

Karen Darch
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TRAC Co-Chair
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Mayor, Aurora &
TRAC Co-Chair
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